

High School Shout Out!

News and Updates for High School Counselors from The California Student Aid Commission



RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

THE MARCH 2 CAL GRANT & GPA DEADLINE IS FRIDAY!



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL

The current budget crisis cannot deter the success of California's future generations. Now, more than ever, students need education and training beyond high school to ensure a productive future for themselves, their families and for the prosperity of our state. Encourage your students not to "opt out", but "opt in"! In addition to Cal Grants, many other types of financial aid are available for college or technical training. All students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine whether they are eligible for grant and/or loan aid – even if they miss the March 2 deadline.

As we noted in an earlier Shout Out, on January, 5, 2012, Governor Jerry Brown released his proposed 2012-13 budget. Staff is continuing the process of reviewing the impact of the changes identified. On February 24, the Commission met and was provided an update on the proposal put forth for this academic year. A [Special Alert](#) was forwarded to administrators detailing this information. For your reference, we have included a summary below.

Commission staff understands the uncertainty that surrounds the Governor's proposals. Our practice is to release new Cal Grant award notifications using existing statutory eligibility requirements and to provide updates and final communications to students if changes to program requirements are later approved in the State Budget. We will keep you informed via our website and through special alerts on any significant developments as the proposal evolves between now and the May revision.

To all of California's dedicated counselors, the Commission extends a sincere acknowledgement of your extra efforts during this busy deadline period. Your work is fundamental to the creation of a viable foundation for a strong future workforce for our state. We thank you for your dedication.

Diana Fuentes-Michel
1975-1979 Cal Grant B Recipient

2012-13 Entitlement Awards

The California Student Aid Commission is pleased to announce the initial 2012-13 Cal Grant selection process for the High School Entitlement (E1) cycle offered over 36,600 preliminary awards to graduating high school seniors and one-year-out high school graduates.

2012-13 rosters with the selected students are available for viewing on the WebGrants Display Roster screen in a non-payable status. The selected E1 students received e-mail notifications to create a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account and view their California Aid Report (CAR) online. The CAR provides instructions to manage their WGS account, process a school change, and read the "Important Facts About Your Cal Grant Award" fact sheet. Students who do not have an e-mail address or who have an undeliverable e-mail address will receive a paper CAR.

Students receiving the "Application on Hold" notification are directed to the WGS Cal Grant Application Correction page or, if they receive the "Cal Grant Disqualification" notification, to the Disqualification Fact Sheet. Copies of the letters and fact sheet are enclosed for your convenience.

Students who have not yet received an electronic CAR can also establish a WGS account and check their status online at www.webgrants4students.org. The Commission will continue to run weekly award cycles and provide electronic or paper CARs to applicants.

School of Origin Report for High Schools

The Commission produces a WebGrants School of Origin Report for high schools that lists all eligible Cal Grant Entitlement participants based on the high school that certified their Cal Grant Grade Point Average (GPA).

The 2012-13 High School Entitlement Cal Grant Origin Report not only identifies all eligible Cal Grant participants, but also can help you identify students who may have incomplete applications or other issues preventing them from being considered for a Cal Grant award.

***The School of Origin Report is available in WebGrants
under the "Data Transfer" menu***



Budget Proposals in Brief...

The following information is being provided to update our external stakeholders on the Governor's proposed 2012-13 State Budget released on January 5, 2012, and the potential impact on the California Student Aid Commission's (Commission) Cal Grant and Loan Assumption programs. For more detail, please refer to this link to our [Special Alert](#). The Governor's proposals may affect the Cal Grant program in the following ways:

Raise the Grade Point Averages for Cal Grant applicants:

- Cal Grant A from 3.00 to 3.25
- Cal Grant B from 2.00 to 2.75
- Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement A and B from 2.40 to 2.75

Reduce the maximum Cal Grant tuition award amount for new and renewal students attending independent colleges or universities from \$9,708 to \$5,472.

Reduce the maximum Cal Grant tuition award amount for new and renewal students attending proprietary schools from \$9,708 to \$4,000.

Establish in statute the prior Commission practice of requiring uninterrupted enrollment between community college and transfer to a four-year college or university to meet Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement requirements.

Phase out the loan assumption programs for teachers and nurses by eliminating all new award offers, eliminating loan assumption payments to any participant who has not already received their first year of benefits, and continuing to provide loan assumption payments through 2015-16 to participants who have already received at least one year of benefits.

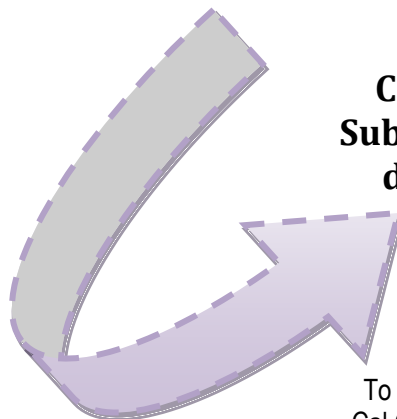


Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Nominations!

This award honors excellence in student counseling. Named after Arthur Marmaduke, the first California Student Aid Commission Executive Director, recipients are determined based on nominations from high school principals or their designee.

For further information, please visit this [link](#) on the Commission's [website](#).

Nominations are due March 30, 2012!



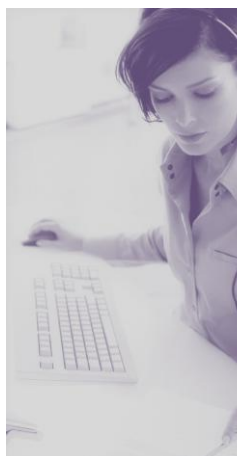
The 2012-13 Cal Grant & GPA Submission March 2 deadline is this Friday!

To assist students with their Cal Grant questions and other financial aid information, the Commission is expanding its Customer Relations phone hours.

From **Tuesday, February 21, through Friday, March 9, 2012**, Commission staff will be available from **8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

Students who have already opened a WebGrants for Students account can check their status at www.webgrants4students.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission's School Support Services Branch at (888) 294-0153 or by email at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.



COMMISSION CONTACT INFORMATION

Tabitha Frost: (916) 464.2113
or at tfrost@csac.ca.gov

Justin Watkins: (916) 464.6425
or at jwatkins@csac.ca.gov

Janice Wright: (916) 464.6420
or at jwright@csac.ca.gov

www.csac.ca.gov
www.webgrants4students.org
www.calgrants.org

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